

# *Los Angeles County Department of Agricultural Commissioner/Weights and Measures*

## **:: News Bulletin ::**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **LOS ANGELES COUNTY OBSERVES WEIGHTS AND MEASURES WEEK, MARCH 1-7, 2004**

#### **Accuracy in Recycling - Getting What You Sell For**

The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, at their weekly Board Meeting, declared March 1-7 as "Weights and Measures Week" within the county. The Board, by resolution, formally recognized the 205<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first weights and measures laws enacted by the Congress of the United States. Board members also recognized the important work local jurisdictions play in ensuring equity in the marketplace. The theme of this year's observance is: *Accuracy In Recycling - Getting What You Sell For*.

This issue has special significance in Los Angeles County where there are hundreds of recycling centers, and where many County residents redeem CRV containers.

"Our agency routinely conducts undercover inspections at recycling facilities," said Cato Fiksdal, County Sealer of Weights and Measures. "Our inspectors were shortchanged in almost 20% of their test sales. As a result, we have increased staffing to better detect and deter this practice," he continued. This under-payment to county residents takes on added importance in 2004 as CRV values increase to four cents for containers under 24 ounces and eight cents for larger containers. The Department has successfully prosecuted offending recycling facilities. An example is Bellflower Recycling Center in Bellflower. The company pled no contest to one charge of short weighing. They were ordered to pay \$2700 in fines and investigative costs, and serve three years probation.

Offending recyclers underpaid Department undercover inspectors an average of nearly 50 cents per transaction. Based on those losses, County residents face potential annual losses of over \$30,000,000 per year. "People must have trust in the integrity of the weighing process if our recycling efforts are to succeed," said Mr. Fiksdal.

Persons with complaints about recycling centers may call 562-940-8941, or submit online at the department's website: <http://acwm.co.la.ca.us>.